MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 JULY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--The clandestine voice of Palestine radio reported on 22 July that late the previous night an Israeli armored battalion attempted to advance toward the Al-Khardali bridge in the direction of the Palestinian stronghold Beaufort Castle. According to the radio, Palestinian forces repulsed the attacked, destroying two tanks and another vehicle. The radio also reported that early on 22 July the IDF carried out an operation in the Az-Zahrani area involving helicopter-borne troops backed by covering fire from warships. Soon afterward, the radio said, Israeli artillery began pounding the road between the Al-Khardali bridge and Beaufort Castle. In a related report, the Voice of Palestine announced that the Palestinians captured an Israeli corporal. However, in a report broadcast on 22 July, Jerusalem radio quoted IDF sources as denying all knowledge of an Israeli armored thrust toward Beaufort Castle and as also denying the Palestinian claim to have captured an Israeli soldier.

The Voice of Palestine reported further Israeli artillery shelling of Palestinian positions in the south throughout 21 July. The targets included Ar-Rashidiyah Camp, Al-Qal'ah, Al-'Ayshiyah, Tyre, Beaufort Castle and An-Nabatiyah. The radio claimed that an Israeli aircraft was shot down during an afternoon raid on An-Nabatiyah. Later, it reported renewed air raids on Ar-Rashidiyah Camp and Tyre. Jerusalem radio, citing the IDF spokesman, confirmed the Israeli air strikes, reporting that the planes hit Palestinian artillery positions and that all the aircraft returned safely to base.

Jerusalem radio said a Palestinian artillery attack on northern Israel injured one person and damaged several buildings, but it also said other artillery attacks throughout 21 July and early the next day caused no casualties and did little damage. The radio noted on 22 July that the Israeli settlers in the Galilee panhandle have now spent 7 consecutive nights in their shelters. According to the Voice of Hope radio, Palestinian shelling on the night of 21-22 July caused heavy damage in the Christian-held border strip. Jerusalem television defended Israel's repeated attacks on Palestinian refugee camps like Ar-Rashidiyah on the grounds that the Palestinian military organizations use them as "camouflage garages" to hide their cannon and rockets. It said the Palestinians are using 30 to 50 such artillery pieces to shell northern settlements in Israel. According to Jerusalem radio, the Syrians have been giving the Palestinians orders and information for their operations against the Israeli settlements.

Syria on SAM Deployment--Damascus radio quoted TISHRIN as saying on 21 July that Syria's antiaircraft missiles in Lebanon will "not remain limited to certain circles" and that they will be deployed "where necessary ... to defend the Syrian forces in Lebanon and, consequently, the Lebanese and Palestinians."

Israeli Cabinet Meeting--Jerusalem television reported that the Israeli Cabinet has rejected the U.S. demand that Israel unilaterally cease fire. Although the television said the Cabinet decision contained no reference to the suspension of F-16 deliveries, Jerusalem radio reported that the Cabinet views President Ronald Reagan's decision to suspend the delivery of the aircraft as tantamount to pressure on Israel to comply with the U.S. demand for a cease-fire. According to Jerusalem radio, the Cabinet adopted Begin's position that Israel will continue to demand that the Lebanese Government take action to remove the "terrorists" and will not agree to a cease-fire that will enable them to reorganize and attack Israeli citizens following a few months of calm. The radio said the Cabinet must still decide how to handle the PLO and must examine relations with the United States. The prevalent view regarding the PLO is that strikes against it should continue until its infrastructure is destroyed, the radio noted.

Habib Mission--Jerusalem radio reported that after the Cabinet meeting Begin met with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib to brief him on the Israeli Government stance. It said that in his meeting with Habib, Begin protested the White House decision to suspend the delivery of F-16 aircraft, emphasizing that this is the first time that conditions stipulated in Israeli-U.S. contracts for the supply of arms have been violated. According to the radio, Begin's protest expressed dismay that a friendly administration would not honor its contracts, particularly in view of the regular and constant supply of lethal weapons to the Palestinians by the Soviet Union and Libya. After his meeting with Habib, Begin made an announcement, broadcast live by Jerusalem radio, in which he said the Cabinet agreed that Habib will hold contacts with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and the Lebanese Government aimed at establishing peace between Israel and Lebanon. The prime minister asserted that the Israeli Government will under no circumstances hold negotiations, either direct or indirect, with the "terrorist" organizations or empower anyone else to conduct negotiations with them. He also said the Israeli Government will continue to defend Israeli citizens, as is its right and duty.

U.S.-Israeli Differences--Jerusalem radio reported that U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's message to Prime Minister Begin was formulated in a "reassuring style," which it said contrasted with reports from Ottawa saying the United States had sent a firm message to Israel. The radio said that while Haig repeated in his message that Israel is a friend and an ally of the United States, he explained that President Reagan had no choice but to freeze the delivery of F-16 aircraft in light of reports on the killing of civilians in the Israeli attack on Beirut. The radio also reported that the prime minister was not prepared to respond to the U.S. demand that the hostilities cease at once. On these two issues the governments of the United States and Israel are fundamentally at odds, it said. According to the radio, Israel's stance is based on an in-depth analysis of the term "cease-fire," which it interprets as implying recognition of the party with which one reaches a cease-fire. It is this trap that the Cabinet wants to avoid, it said.

Tzipori Remarks--Interviewed by a Jerusalem television correspondent, Israeli Deputy Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said there is no crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations, just a legitimate argument. He expressed the opinion that the common denominator between Israel and the United States is so deep that the argument will be resolved. In an interview broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Tzipori said Israel is prepared to negotiate a cease-fire with the Lebanese authorities in order to help return order to their country and along the Israeli-Lebanese border. He affirmed, however, that Israel will never negotiate with the Palestinians.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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VOP SAYS FIGHTING AGAINST ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE

JN211952 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Jul 81

["News Analysis"]

[Text] Statements made by Begin and his ministers confirm that the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution will continue. By pursuing the military operations of his planes and naval and ground forces, terrorist Begin is trying to impose his will over the Lebanese arena. He states that the condition for a cease-fire in Lebanon is the suspension of the Palestinian revolution's activities and operations. In other words, Begin is announcing the continuation of the war against the Palestinian revolution and the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces.

We are aware that the mad criminal Begin, by making these fanciful conditions, is trying to evade facing reality, which is slapping him in the face these days and which comes as one of the negative results of his barbaric aggression against Beirut, several Lebanese regions and Palestinian camps. The Israeli press and Zionist and government political sources have stressed that the operation of opening [as heard] fire cannot take place without the PLO's approval because it is the other party in the war that has been raging for the past 10 days.

This morning enemy radio political correspondents affirmed that Begin will inform Philip Habib tonight that he rejects cease-fire because this will mean a request for direct or indirect negotiations with the PLO, according to these correspondents. Thus, Begin has found himself facing the dilemma which he wants to evade by resorting to the war machine in the hope that it will achieve for him the impossible illusion, that is, the destruction of the Palestinian revolutionaries' power. The past days of the glorious battles against the Zionist aggression, however, have pointed out that Begin's chance in this field is that of one who is desperate. The battles that are raging between the joint forces and the Zionist forces on Lebanese territory and on the occupied Palestinian territories increased the strength of the joint forces and raised their morale, thus making them fit to wage new battles and deal more blows to the enemy and to all its allies.

The Palestinian revolution, through Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the Palestinian and joint forces, has announced that we possessa will for confrontation and struggle and that we shall continue to confront the aggression and will never give in to its will or capitulate to its terrorism. Begin's determination to pursue the battle will be faced by a stronger militant will and the blows that have been dealt to the enemy positions in northern occupied Palestine will continue. For every criminal shell that falls on the camps, villages and cities in Lebanon, our shells and rockets will pour on the heads of the enemies and their allies.

We are defending our existence and the masses of our Palestinian and Lebanese people. No one will deprive us of this right and no one can ignore that we have such a right.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN211904 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee continues its meetings under Brother Abu 'mmar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

During today's meeting, the committee discussed the developments on all levels. It discussed the situation from all its sides, including the repeated Israeli raids against Lebanese towns and villages and the Palestinian camps. The committee praised the high morale of the joint forces' fighters in confronting from their various positions the Zionist enemy's land, sea and air offensive. The Committee [words indistinct] the steadfast Palestinian and Lebanese people in the confrontation of this Zionist aggression.

AHMAD JIBRIL INTERVIEWED ON PLO-ISRAEL FIGHT

PM211455 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Interview granted by Ahmad Jibril, alias Abu Jihad, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, to Salih Qallab in Beirut--date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] What do you expect in light of what is happening now and after all these Israeli raids, and is there any likelihood of the enemy marching on the south?

[Answer] First, I must say that we are happy that Begin has been reelected. This underlines the fact that Begin and the Likud represent a true and clear picture of Zionist thought and the reality of the State of Israel. In the past years the Labor Party tried to beautify the face of Israel but the fact is that there is no difference between Begin and Peres as far as Zionist ideology is concerned. The only difference is one of style.

Following these violent raids we now expect an all-out military action, not only against the south but also against Palestinian resistance positions. We also expect the war of attrition between us and the Zionist enemy to be intensified on all sides. As we see it, the enemy operations will follow three lines:

> An advance on the An-Nabatiyyah area, including Arnun, Ash-Shaqif castle and Al-Wadi al-Adhdar, in order to drive our artillery and rockets out of these areas. This will be accompanied by an amphibious landing at Jisr al-Qasimiyah and Tyre. Afterwards, some sort of agreement will be sought to put the area under UN supervision.
>
> The continuation of air strikes on Palestinian positions throughout Lebanon, as has recently happened in Beirut.
>
> An intensification of special operations from the sea and the air. We do not rule out the possibility of the enemy launching terrorist operations in Beirut with the aim of carrying out assassinations and destroying certain Palestinian positions.

I would say that an advance on and the occupation of the An-Nabatiyyah area and the enclave of Tyre is not an impossibility for an army with the tremendous capabilities and resources of the U.S.-backed Israeli Army. But we believe that such an advance will not be easy and we are sure that the enemy will pay a heavy price.

There is another problem. The occupation of An-Nabatiyyah means provoking the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF], which is in control of this area and located in Ar-Rihan and Al-'Ayshiyah. This means a clash with this force in the area, in which case the area of clashes would expand. The Syrian brothers have taken this possibility into consideration and have taken the necessary steps to prevent the enemy from achieving this end.

On the other hand, we do not exclude the possibility of the enemy carrying out a brief operation of propaganda value, such as occupying Ash-Shaqif Castle. In any case, I believe that the enemy's thinking at present is inclined toward occupying the areas in question. But if he thinks of advancing toward western Al-Biqa' via Al-'Urqub, this would mean the outbreak of another Arab-Israeli war.

Israel believes that by creating a new geographical buffer zone it can prevent the resistance from continuing its struggle. But we emphasize that Israel will again be wrong if it adopts this theory, because for the past 3 years the UNIFIL enclave and the Sa'd Haddad enclave has failed to protect the settlements' inhabitants from Palestinian resistance strikes.

As long as our people in the camps and in the Lebanese villages are the target of bombing by Israel and Sa'd Haddad, the inhabitants of settlements in northern Palestine will continue to suffer from our shelling.

If Israel intends to expand territorially and widen the border strip, we are certain that it will not be able to prevent our shells from reaching those settlements, because technology is not exclusively the enemy's; we have it as well.

Our Long-Range Artillery

Thus we now have guns with a range of 33 km and rocket launchers with a range of 21 km. This is not all that we have in our depots and stores. I will not be revealing a secret if I say that we possess other weapons which we can use in suitable conditions. The 21-km range rockets can reach farther than that.

The conflict between us and the enemy is not as simple as Begin is trying to tell the inhabitants of settlements--the idea that he can push us back a little so that these settlements will be beyond the effective range of our rockets. He is grossly mistaken if he thinks so, just as previous Israeli officials were mistaken in promising the inhabitants of these settlements that they would liquidate the Palestinian resistance.

[Question] Israel is talking about the presence of Libyan officers and instructors in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance and about the dispatch of heavy and sophisticated weapons from the Libyan Jamahiriyah to the PFLP-GC in particular and other resistance factions in general.

[Answer] From the first day the [Great 1] September Revolution [in Libya] declared its pan-Arab and struggling identity when it adopted the word "Al-Quds" [Jerusalem] as the code word for zero hour. It has never hidden its attitude toward the Palestine problem and regards this attitude as a national duty.

Despite the fact that the Jamahiriyah's inhabitants are not numerous, in 1972 Libyan volunteers were given the opportunity to join the Palestinian resistance's ranks. Some 600 volunteers joined the resistance then and came here; they fought and some of them fell as martyrs. A few months ago the September Revolution once again opened the door to the Libyan people to volunteer to fight with the Palestinian resistance, and for this reason there are now hundreds of Libyans in the Palestinian resistance ranks.

As for the questions of arming, we, as I said, had to possess sophisticated weapons in order to confront Israeli raids. We now have SAM-7 and SAM-9 missiles and also radar-sighted guns. If we find that these weapons are insufficient to curb Israel's wantonness we will seek to obtain all types of missiles.

I must assert here that the brothers in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and in the September Revolution do not give arms only to us in the PFLP-GC. They also give arms and equipment to Fatah and the Lebanese National Movement, to the extent that we are no longer in need of Arab aid with strings attached. I will not be exaggerating if I say that what the September Revolution has given to the resistance and the Lebanese National Movement is worth hundreds of millions of dollars, apart from financial aid and aid in kind.

We see the vicious U.S. campaign against the Jamahiriyah in this light. I will not be divulging a secret when I say that the U.S. administration suspended the Boeing aircraft deal with Libya when its intelligence realized that Palestinian pilots fly its MiG-23's.

[Question] On the other hand, there are Palestinian resistance volunteers in the Jamahiriyah.

[Answer] We consider defending the September Revolution to be the same as defending our revolution. On the basis of this principle I will not be disclosing a secret when I say that some of our fighters fell as martyrs on the Jamahiriyah's borders and in defense of its revolution.

We would like to tell the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes, and every conspirator, that the resistance is an army that will immediately go to the defense of the Jamahiriyah in the event of any attack on it by As-Sadat or Numayri in the interests of the United States or Israel. Libyan blood is daily being shed in our revolution. In the past few days we have bidden farewell to two sets of Libyan martyrs. Therefore we will not spare Palestinian blood in defense of the September Revolution.

[Question] You have spoken about the need to return to Jordan in any way. Do you have any particular idea in this regard?

[Answer] As I have said, if the Palestinian revolution does not return to Jordan it will remain in a bottleneck and will be facing danger. We should not be deceived by King Husayn's statement that he stands with the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He is waiting for the moment we are liquidated in Lebanon so he can once again demand that he represent the Palestinian people.

We as a resistance faction have previously agreed to have a dialogue with King Husayn, but under the conditions of the National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria, and Libya's conditional aid to it. We believed that given Syrian-Iraqi unity and under the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front we would be able to return to Jordan.

But when fragmentation returned once again things turned to the contrary. I would like to mention here that when 'Abd as-Salam Jallud proposed to King Husayn, during his recent visit to Jordan, the return of the resistance to Jordan in return for the resumption of Libyan aid, King Husayn turned this down and so did his prime minister, Mudar Badran. They both said "the Arabs should not dream that the resistance will ever return to Jordan."

This means that we have no choice but to enter Jordan whether King Husayn likes it or not.

[Question] Does this mean military action?

[Answer] We say whether he likes it or not. We are not saying that we want to enter the town of Az-Zarqa by force or threaten the Jordanian regime. We want to exercise our legitimate right, provided for by the Arab summit resolutions. We want to go back to the Jordan Valley in the direction of the occupied territories, and not to ward Amman or any other town. What I would like to point out here is that the Syrian-Jordanian honeymoon is over and that political conditions are now suitable for looking for a way to return to Jordan.

[Question] But there is the Palestine liberation army in Jordan.

[Answer] This is not a Palestinian liberation army; it is a Jordanian Army that has nothing to do with the PLO except for the responsibility of financing it.

[Question] President Hafiz al-Asad has often declared that the Syrian front is open to Palestinian resistance operations, but we have not seen the resistance carrying out any operations from there.

[Answer] It is true that President al-Asad has said more than once that the Golan front is open to the resistance. And, as I said, the resistance was supposed to return to Jordan in order to escape from the bottleneck. But in order not to be unfaire to anybody, I must say that our situation in Lebanon and the repeated attacks on us have so far prevented us from developing our program with regard to Jordan and the Golan. But I believe that the time will come when we will carry out our military operations through the Golan and Jordan.

FATAH'S AL-HASAN INTERVIEWED ON PLO ISSUES, VIEWS

NC211300 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 13-19 Jul 81 pp 37-45

[Interview given to Claude Khoury of Beirut MONDAY MORNING magazine by Fatah Central Committee Member Hami al-Hasan 'last week'--place not given]

[Excerpts] The political advisor of Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has warned that the PLO will ask Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq to impose economic sanctions against France if President Francois Mitterrand reverses his predecessor's positions on the Middle Eastern crisis and the Palestinian issue. Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, told MONDAY MORNING in a private interview last week that French officials were presenting acceptable positions in private talks with the Palestinians, but their public statements were harking back to issues like the Camp David peace process, which was unacceptable to the Palestinians and the Arab majority.

"We do not care that is said behind the scenes," Al-Hasan said. "The important thing is the position which is relayed to Israel... that will be our criterion from now on in dealing with the Europeans and even with our friends. I repeat: And even with our friends." Al-Hasan also stated:

> --That the year ahead will be a year of escalating armed struggle "and the violence may reach a point where many constants, many methods of work, will change."
> --That the PLO, which has placed the accent on diplomacy over the past few years, will now give priority to armed confrontation with Israel and the United States, moving from the defensive to the offensive as the Reagan administration and the newly elected Israeli Premier Menahem Begin prepare to close in on the Palestinians.
> --That the world is approaching a "new Yalta," a new pact between the superpowers which may take place "in a few months, in a year or in two years." The Palestinians, who refuse to be sacrificed at the approaching Yalta conference," hope that the Soviet Union will realize that this is not the time for peace talks and that Moscow will back the PLO in an all-out armed confrontation with Tel Aviv and Washington, as it is backing Damascus now."
> --That the PLO is pleased to note that all parties in Lebanon have once more recognized the agreements signed by the Lebanese state and the Palestinian resistance.

In Lebanon, the Palestinians want nothing more than the implementation of the Lebanese-Palestinian accords and talks with a legitimate authority capable of keeping any commitment it makes and abiding by any results arrived at in future Lebanese-Palestinian talks.

The Europeans must pressure Israel into withdrawing. They are the creators of the State of Israel, and they must not avoid this confrontation. "Those who avoid confrontation with Israel and refuse to exert pressure on Begin to withdraw will soon find out that their interests in this region will not fare well."

The Palestinians, Al-Hasan said, were "pleased with what was said behind the scenes (in Paris), but at the same time, we will not allow Europe or anyone else to play for time, as is happening now, to arrange matters in the region.

We want public positions and practical steps. We do not care what is said behind the scenes. The important thing is the position which is relayed to Israel. That is the acid test. That will be our criterion from now on in dealing with the Europeans and even with our friends. I repeat: And even with our friends."

Yalta

The PLO, Al-Hasan said, hopes that Mitterrand will get through his period of study quickly, "because this year is not like the past two years. The world is approaching a new Yalta conference, and the Palestinians refuse to be sacrificed at that conference, which may take place in a few months, in a year or in two years."

The United States, he added, was hoping to impose Israel on the region and "Lebanize" the Middle East through a "1983 convention" with the Soviet Union--a development which would mean a return to strife in the region every 10 or 15 years.

"Because of the changes that have occurred with the election of Reagan and because the internal difficulties Europe has begun to face over the Middle East, any hope of an early settlement of the Palestinian issue has become a figment of the imagination," Al-Hasan said. "We have before us a year of heavy struggle, and the violence may reach a point where many constants, many methods of work, will change. After that, we will know whose will is to prevail.

"The American administration and Israel want the head of the Palestinian resistance at this stage.

"We must enter into the confrontation to impose the Palestinian will on the two superpowers and Europe. Because if the Palestinian flag rises in Palestine--even if it rises in part of Palestine--that will mean that the Zionist ideology has begun to be contained. Otherwise, it will mean the Lebanization of the region. As escalating confrontation with Israel is required not only for the future of the Palestinians but also for the future of the Arabs in general."

It is of primary importance that the PLO reach agreement with the Soviet Union on the confrontation of Israel, "and not on pacification and peace," Al-Hasan said.

Qaddumi's recent visit to Moscow, he said was in preparation for the visit of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat to the Soviet capital toward the end of this year.

Asked about reports that the Soviets had refused to raise the PLO's representative office in Moscow to embassy status, Al-Hasan said: "The truth is that the Soviet Union said that it would study the matter and give its answer later. Our hope is that by the end of this year, when our Brother Abu 'Ammar ('Arafat) goes to Moscow, the Soviet Union will have arrived at a decision on this question."

He added: "Personally, I am not as interested in this matter as I am in Soviet support. The Soviet Union stood behind Syria when it took the offensive. It supported Syria when the missiles were brought into Lebanon to challenge Israel and the U.S. I hope that the Soviet Union will support the Palestinian revolution in the same way. This is not the time for peace initiatives. This is a time of confrontation with the Israelis and the Americans. My hope is that the Soviet Union will discuss with us the development of the confrontation with Israel and the U.S. as it is doing with the Syrians.

"Perhaps it is the expert handling on the part of (Syrian) President Hafiz al-Asad that created this situation. I say that we, the Palestinian leaders, must see to it that no one moves ahead of us in confrontation and in taking the offensive.

That, in fact, is what we are doing. It is of primary importance to me that we agree with the Soviet Union on points relating to the confrontation of the Zionist enemy, and not to peace and pacification.

"The first step in that direction must come from the Palestinians. They must create a state of confrontation that can be backed by the Soviet Union. The enemy is trying to contain the confrontation within south Lebanon. I believe we have so far prevented Begin from doing this, but we must now expand the arena of confrontation with Israel and America--within the occupied territories."

Military

Asked whether this meant that the PLO would no longer give priority to diplomacy but would concentrate on military action, Al-Hasan said: "Yes. That is true. We must understand the implications of the advent of the Reagan administration and the implications of the current struggle between the superpowers. The Reagan administration is insisting on the apportionment of regions, not issues. In forming the Rapid Deployment Force, Washington is trying to draw the borders of the areas that it considers to be its own, and these areas start in the waters of the Gulf in the south. The Reagan administration is trying to gain time to complete the encirclement of the region, after which it will strike, as it did in El Salvador and elsewhere.

"We in Fatah believe that armed struggle sows and political struggle reaps, and if there is no sowing, there is no reaping. In 1978 and 1979, thanks to our struggle, we were in a period of reaping, and we reaped a great deal for the Palestinian cause. Now, I believe we are in another period of sowing. There is a new American confrontation facing us, and with the reelection of Begin, a new Israeli confrontation. They are preparing for large-scale operations against the resistance inside Beirut, comparable to the Verdun Street operation (of 1973, when Israeli commandos entered the Lebanese capital and assassinated several Palestinian leaders). We have a great deal of evidence on this matter. They are preparing to encircle the resistance. Inside the occupied territories, a wide-scale displacement operation is under way against the Palestinians: In the past four years, over 108,000 Palestinians have been driven out of the occupied territories.

"So we must not be naive: We must not speak the language of peace in a time of war. Here, I would like to indulge in a bit of self-criticism: Because of its fear over south Lebanon, the Palestinian resistance has allowed itself to be maneuvered into a position of defense, and I fear that this may have become a habit. We must now end this habit and take the offensive. We must all unite against the most vicious American plan ever laid to liquidate the Palestinian resistance. That is why I say we must arrive at an agreement with the Soviet Union on points relating to an armed confrontation, to an offensive against the Israeli and American positions, and not to anything else.

"The expertise with which President al-Asad is handling the confrontation with the Israelis in the Al-Biqa' and the confrontation with the United States is laudable...the stronger Syria becomes in this confrontation, the stronger the Palestinian resistance will become. However, the resistance must have the leading role in the confrontation, and I am very hopeful that our movement is approaching confronatations which will make our children proud."

Lebanon

As to whether the PLO's planned offensive might hamper the implementation of the Lebanese-Palestinian agreements (one of the goals of the Arab follow-up committee which is currently trying to defuse the Lebanese crisis), Al-Hasan said:

"The Lebanese war has weakened all the parties involved in it. No one would be happier than the Palestinians if the Lebanese problem could be solved, because much of our power is now frozen for self-defense.

"Furthermore, it has been established that the Lebanese problem did not start because of Palestinian presence but was started with a view to rearranging the region. Hence the sudden appearance of (Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East) Philip Habib. When Washington felt that the steering wheel was slipping out of its hands, it sent Habib to the region and he bagan his efforts to avert the destruction of the American equation in this part of the world. So we would be the happiest people in the world if Lebanese national accord was achieved and the Lebanese crisis ended."

Noting that several Lebanese parties had for a long time rejected the agreements, signed by the Lebanese state and the PLO in 1969 and thereafter, Al-Hasan said: "We are happy to see that all parties have once more recognized the agreements signed by the state of Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance. We want nothing more than the application of these agreements and discussions with a legal authority capable of honoring any commitment or any results we may arrive at. As far as we are concerned, the most important point is to make sure that accord guarantees the security of the Palestinians in the cities and the application of the agreements. We have never considered Lebanon a battlefield. Our confrontation is with the enemy in the occupied territories and wherever else the Zionists take aggressive action against the Arab people."

In view of this, Al-Hasan said, there was no contradiction between the PLO's plans to launch an offensive and its desire to end the Lebanese crisis. "On the contrary, it is the United States which has tried to drag the Lebanese crisis out to exhaust the Palestinian revolution and rearrange conditions in the region. We are waiting impatiently for a Lebanese accord which includes all Lebanese nationalist forces, because these forces are our safety valve."

A favorable development toward the settlement of the Lebanese crisis, Al-Hasan said, would help the Palestinians in their current efforts to hold an Arab summit conference. "The obstacles which are blocking the summit are the differences among the Arab states," he said. "The most important thing is to settle the differences between Iraq and Syria and then end the Iraqi-Iranian war, because that would allow a return to the eastern front. No one can impose concessions on the Zionist enemy in the absence of a military front capable of exerting pressure, either by deterrence or by action.

"It is no secret that brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is doing his best to settle the Syrian-Iraqi dispute and end the Iraqi-Iranian war. And I believe that the recent Israeli attack on the Iraqi reactor has been useful in this regard. It has convinced all the Arabs that Israel's target is not the Palestinians alone. Tomorrow, its target may be the Libyan nuclear reactor, or the Al-Ka'bah in Saudi Arabia, or the oil installations in Algeria, or the industries in northern Syria. It follows that we the Arabs have no choice but to give confrontation with this American policeman priority over all our differences. We must end the differences between Iraq and Syria, between Morocco and Algeria..."

Commenting on reports that Senegalese President Leopold Senghor was trying to launch a dialogue between the PLO and the Reagan administration, and reports that there have been "secret contacts" between Washington and the PLO since the days of the Nixon administration, Al-Hasan said: "There are many who are trying to play a role between America and the PLO. There are always men coming here-journalists, businessmen, people who have contacts with the American administration--to talk to us about that subject.

Everyone knows that during the Lebanese war, there were American contacts with us to facilitate the evacuation of American nationals from Lebanon.

Dialogue

"Where the question of a dialogue with Washington is concerned, we listen to all views. We will never stop anyone who wishes to play a role in this matter, but in the final analysis, our position is clear: Relations with Washington must be based on unconditional American recognition of the PLO. If the U.S. is interested in recognizing the PLO in return for a Palestinian recognition of Israel, I advise the American administration not to waste its time, because that approach is a dead-end. This is something which no Palestinian can do because it negates all conceivable political tactics, and it is an unacceptable American violation of Palestinian sovereignty."

Israel

Reiterating the Palestinian view that there is no difference between Menahem Begin and his defeated rival, Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres ("We make no distinction between those who kill in broad daylight, like Begin, and those who undertake genocidal actions under polite slogans, like Peres"), Al-Hasan expressed concern over the fact that most Arabs in Israel voted for Peres in the recent elections.

"This matter should be studied seriously," he said. "I personally am in favor of categorizing the democratic forces in Palestine on a nationalist basis, not on an ideological or class basis. I believe in categorizing them as Arabs or non-Arabs...

"Many of the (Palestinian) voters, expressing their opposition to Begin's policies, voted for Peres, although there is no doubt that Peres is not a valid alternative. This phenomenon was discussed in depth in the last Central Committee meeting, and it will be the subject of an unannounced study which will be placed at the disposal of the leaders specialized in the occupied territories so that they can take it into consideration. The Arabs in Palestine must help bring forward the kind of leadership that can have more influence on them."

PLO CONNECTION WITH SA'ID KAMAL IN EGYPT DENIED

JN211934 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] A responsible PLO source has stated the following: Sa'id Kamal, who is in Cairo, has nothing to do with the PLO, nor has he any official capacity whatsoever. The Executive Committee had earlier relieved him of all his duties in the PLO.

PLO CLAIMS QIRYAT GAT EXPLOSION RESPONSIBILITY

NC201046 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1020 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Undated statement issued by a military spokesman of the Palestinian Revolution Forces' General Command--read by announcer]

[Text] Last night a special group of our forces inside the occupied land moved toward a set target. The group planted explosive time bombs inside the Zionist army's military fuel station opposite the police station in Qiryat Gat. The group then left the area as planned. The bombs went off on time shortly before midnight. The sound of the explosion was heard all over the area.

A large number of policemen and Zionist guards immediately rushed to the scene, cordoned off the area and set up roadblocks. They arrested dozens of Palestinian youths on the pretext of connection with the operation.

The explosion resulted in the following:

1. Many enemy soldiers working in the station were injured.
2. A number of fuel storage tanks were destroyed.
3. The station building sustained heavy damage.

PLO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE DAMAGED BY EXPLOSION

NC211519 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1445 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] According to preliminary reports, a small bomb put in a pickup van parked in Al-Mazra'ah Corniche slightly damaged the PLO administrative office at around 1600 today in Beirut. No one was in the office at the time. A number of passersby were wounded by the blast and by fallen glass.

MASSES MOURN MARTYRS, MEET WITH AL-WAZZAN 21 JUL

NC211355 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] In response to a call by the popular committee of the Ar-Rawshah and As-Sanayi' commercial area, the Palestinian and Lebanese masses today observed a day of national mourning for the martyrs of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, who are the victims of the war of extermination being waged by the Zionist enemy. Shops have been closed in Ar-Rawshah and As-Sanayi' since this morning. At 1000 today a mass demonstration was staged in Al-Mazra'ah Corniche and Al-Barbir and then proceeded to meet with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, to whom the masses submitted their demands, which are summed up as follows:

1. To ensure air cover for the south and the capital.
2. To ensure effective air defense networks to protect the national areas.
3. To speed up the rebuilding of bridges to restore the cohesion among the homeland's areas.
4. To provide medical supplies and blood from the Health Ministry to various hospitals and establishments.
5. To order the army forces in the south to resist and answer the repeated Zionist attacks.
6. To order the strengthening of fire bridges and the establishment of additional stations in various areas, particularly in the south and in Beirut.

LEBANESE NATIONALISTS URGE MISSILES NETWORK, AID

NC211335 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1222 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The [Lebanese] National Movement in the south has asked the official authorities to fully cooperate with Syria in spreading the network of missiles to protect the homeland. It also asked for the immediate grant of necessary aid to the people in the south to compensate them for their losses and to reactivate the disrupted establishment. It affirmed that the military objective of the aggression was not more serious vis-a-vis the other effects at the economic and social level. The movement said that the aggression was not directed against any military target in the south, but was against the civilians and civilian targets in particular.

BAHRAIN

FINANCIAL AID GRANTED TO PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT

GF211305 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 21 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] Wafa Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain, has announced that Bahrain will grant 100,000 dinars in aid to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society to help meet its requirements following the brutal 11-day Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people in Lebanon. Mr Nabhan said in a statement that Fathi 'Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, made a telephone call yesterday to Dr 'Ali Fakhru, the Bahraini health minister and acting education minister, expressing the PLO's gratitude for Bahrain's national stand and support for the palestinian people in their confrontation of the Zionist aggression.

SAUDI ARABIA

FAHD, YAMANI COMMENT ON ARAB, DOMESTIC ISSUES

LD211320 Riyadh SPA in English 1205 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Mecca, 21 Jul (SPA)--Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz endorsed Saudi Arabia's firm determination to go ahead with shouldering its full responsibilities towards the Arabs and Islamic world. Presiding over a meeting of the Council of Ministers, convened here last night at King Khalid Palace, Prince Fahd reviewed the Kingdom's contacts on Arab and international level regarding the current political situation in the Middle East region.

Following the conclusion of the Council of Ministers meeting, Information Minister Dr Mohammad Abouh Yamani told SPA that the Council of Ministers have decided to grant 120 million U.S. dollars for Lebanon to help it in repayment of debts for a Tapline Oil Corporation.

He said the Council of Ministers have also approved a new system for the Umm al-(Qura) University in [name indistinct]. Dr Yamani said the Council of Ministers have also reviewed working-out of a general system and regulations for universities and also some specifications for every university in the Kingdom.

He added the session also approved the annual report of the Saudi development fund for the year 1979 to 1981.

UAE

MEDICAL RELIEF TEAM LEAVES FOR LEBANON 21 JUL

GF211150 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] A UAE medical team left for Beirut today on a special plane carrying the medical aid his highness the president has ordered to treat the Palestinian and Lebanese victims of the continuous Zionist aggression against Lebanon. The team, headed by Dr Ahmad 'Anbar, chief surgeon at Al-Jazirah Hospital, consists of 14 doctors and pharmacists and 24 nurses and technicians. It is equipped with about 12 tons of medicine, in addition to 204 units of blood of all types. The medical equipment includes instruments for emergency aid and operations.

The team was seen off by Health Minister Hamad 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Madfah, who instructed it to cooperate with the Lebanese Public Health Ministry and the palestinian Red Crescent Society in order to fulfill its national and humane mission and to give the true picture about the UAE.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FINDINGS ON LAWYERS REPORTED

NC211500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)--The report prepared by the People's Assembly's special fact-finding committee looking into the conduct of the Lawyers Association Council in the wake of President as-Sadat's letter to the Assembly has recommended that Lawyers Law No 61 of the year 1968 be revised and brought in line with the provisions of the Constitution and its amendments, the parties law and other legislations.

The report also recommended that firm and binding controls should be introduced and added to the lawyers law. These controls, it said, should govern the participation of the association in international conferences and forums, in coordination with the state's general policy. It urged that codes of ethics be drawn up in harmony with Article 56 of the Constitution.

The report underlined a number of facts, including the fact that the Lawyers Association Council includes members who are trying to use the association to serve their partisan interests at home and abroad, deviating from the interests of the vast base of lawyers. It added that the differences within the Association Council steer the association's work away from the method of sound practice.

The report emphasized that in view of these facts the Association Council is not making any effort to raise the standard of the association, protect the interests of its members, maintain the traditions of the profession and ensure the freedom of the lawyers in discharging their duties. The report affirmed that the council has stopped serving the professional interests of the association and has turned all its attention to the aim of transforming the association headquarters into a meeting place for parties and rejectionists of various affiliations. This, the report added, took the association off the course charted for it under the law.

The report noted that Lawyers Law No 61 of the year 1968 is no longer suited to the changed society and that its provisions are not flexible enough to enable the lawyers to express their views in the Association Council or to disagree with the majority.

The report pointed out that since the Association Council preoccupied itself with matters outside its jurisdiction and used the association as a platform for spreading tendentious rumors, trying to incite public opinion against the regime and trying to cast doubt on the Egyptian people's achievements the conduct of the council created bitterness among the lawyers. The lawyers, therefore, seized the opportunity of the General Assembly meeting, gathered, went in, voiced their opinion about the association and its chairman and asked that confidence in them be withdrawn.

The report added that the expression of true feelings by the lawyers indicates that a large number of lawyers do not wish the present Association Council to continue. This trend was confirmed to the committee in numerous cables received from many lawyers and heads of association branches.

The report noted that there is a sharp division within the association and it is feared that this might destroy what is left of the association's activity in the service of its members. What increases the seriousness and complications of the situation is that prerequisites for convening an extraordinary session of the General Assembly make its convening impossible, which means a continuation of the present bad state of affairs.

The report said that the excesses committed by the present Lawyers Association Council are so serious that they constitute a threat to public interests and a violation of the values of the society, in addition to gravely harming the lawyers and their association.

The report asserts that in a society that has completed its constitutional structure and its institutions through which political work is channeled it is unsuitable to have an association working outside legal channels, turning public opinion against these legal channels, violating the national character of the association, appointing itself as a trustee for the entire Egyptian society and seeking to have a group of its members dominate the Egyptian people's resources and achievements.

LIBYAN 'SWINDLE' OF EGYPTIAN WORKERS REPORTED

PM201441 Cairo MAY in Arabic 13 Jul 81 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Important Report to Foreign Ministry: 'Libya Seeks To Divest Egypt of the Manpower It Needs for Its Agricultural Development Scores of Egyptian and Libyan Brokers Have Become Millionaires'"]

[Text] MAY has obtained an important report revealing an attempt by Libya and a number of brokers to swindle a large number of Egyptian laborers needed by Egypt for its agricultural development. It has been decided to adopt deterrent measures to stop the tampering with the livelihood of these Egyptian workers, who are being swindled in special camps in Malta.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din have reviewed the report, which was prepared by Ambassador Dr 'Adb al-Mun'im 'Atiq after the ministry received several complaints about unprecedented swindles involving Egyptian workers, bogus contracts they sign to work in Libya, the concentration of workers in a military camp in Malta, their being conned into accepting meager wages and bad living conditions and their eventual dispatch to Libya.

Some brokers operating from Cairo have reaped millions from this operation, especially as they operate from private apartments or cafes. The broker gets between 750 and 1,000 pounds from every worker wishing to go. The worker also pays his fare to Malta. The ticket costs 350 pounds. The workers are then concentrated in a camp called "Hal Far" until a Libyan broker arrives; he forces the workers to sign a contract accepting pay of 70 dinars, whereas the broker himself gets 110 dinars monthly from the employer.

The report warns of the following facts:

--In this way Egypt is divested of the skilled labor it needs, especially tilemakers and agricultural, construction and trade workers, of whom Egypt does not have a surplus and who can get much higher wages in their own country than those paid by the Egyptian and Libyan brokers.

--Some of the workers are of army recruitment age and this means there is a danger they may be employed in work unsuited to their age.

--Continued deception of our skilled workers in this manner will mean that development programs in Egypt will face a shortage of the requisite skilled labor and higher wages.

The report recommends setting up a special body to regulate and organize the travel of Egyptian workers to Malta and Libya. This body should include representatives of the National Democratic Party and the Foreign, Interior and Labor and Social Affairs Ministries. Its task would be to review contracts and wages. It has also been decided to ask the Maltese Government to send representatives and to abide by such regulations governing the employment of workers as shall be agreed.

In the light of Ambassador Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im 'Atiq's contacts in Malta, measures will be taken to strike hard at the brokers, who are not subject to the tax law in Egypt.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 405

JN211656 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)--During the past 24 hours, the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted heavy losses on the Persian enemy amounting to 293 killed and various military weapons destroyed.

Communique No 405 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that one of the forward Iraqi military units clashed in a fierce battle with groups of enemy infantry in the Nowsud region in the northern sector of the battlefield, inflicting heavy losses amounting to more than 215 dead. The communique added that it was proven that an Iranian fighter plane fell in the Iranian region opposite Qal'at Dizah, which is in the north of Iraq, in addition to the plane downed by Iraqi ground fire inside Iraq while trying to raid the Dukan region, as cited in the military communique of the day before yesterday.

The text of the Communique No 405 of the Armed Forces General Command is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant armed forces continued to strike at the forces of the racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units clashed with groups of enemy infantry in the Nowsud region. A fierce battle followed, during which the enemy sustained heavy human losses amounting to more than 215 dead. One armored personnel carrier and one fieldgun were destroyed in the same region.
B. Eleven killed and one tank and one vehicle destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
C. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Our forces hit it with various weapons and forced it to retreat after sustaining 12 dead. Our forces destroyed one stockpile of hardware in the same region.
D. Three killed in the Sumar region.
E. Six killed and one observation post destroyed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
F. One of our forward units raided enemy concentrations and positions in the Dezful region and pounded them with various weapons, killing 23 and destroying 2 fieldguns.
G. Two killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Shush region.
H. Our units pounded enemy concentrations and positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, killing 14 and destroying 1 infantry position and 1 vehicle. Our helicopters destroyed two enemy tanks in the same region.
I. Seven killed and one infantry position and four stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Abadan region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 293 dead, 2 infantry positions, 3 tanks, 1 personnel carrier, 2 vehicles, 3 fieldguns, 6 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post.

II. It has been confirmed that a second enemy plane was downed in the Iranian territory opposite Qal'at Dizah. This is in addition to the plane downed inside Iraq while trying to raid the Dukan region, as cited in our 19 July communique.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 12 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 July 1981

CLAIM OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE AGAINST IRAN DENIED

JN211717 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)--A responsible Iraqi source has refuted the misleading information propagated by AFP citing Iranian information circles. This information claims that the Iraqi forces have used chemical weapons in the war they are waging for the sake of putting an end to the Persian aggression and seizing the rights of both Iraq and the Arab nation.

The responsible source told INA today that such lies, which Tehran rulers disseminate every now and then personally and through others, are aimed at implicating the world information organs and press, including AFP, in order to spread an atmosphere of confusion and perplexity amid which facts get lost. They are also aimed at diverting attention from the crimes committed daily by the ignorant ruling clique against the Iranian peoples and at concealing the massacres and executions taking place there.

The sources added that world public opinion has become familiar with this misleading style of Iran's rulers and always views this style as one of the formulas reflecting the sick and disrupted Iranian situation resulting from the bloody struggles and wicked hostile ambitions of those racist Persian rulers.

SADDAM HUSAYN CONFERS WITH GDR'S KLEIBER

JN201440 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jul (INA)--President Saddam Husayn today received several heads of the friendly delegations participating in Iraq's celebrations on the 13th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution. The heads of the delegations conveyed the greetings and congratulations of their leaders and governments to the Iraqi Government and people on this immortal occasion.

President Saddam Husayn also received Guenther Kleiber, Socialist Unity Party Central Committee candidate member and GDR deputy premier. Discussions during the meeting dealt with the relations between the two friendly countries and the means to promote these relations.

The meeting was attended by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MEETS AFGHAN MINISTER

GF201439 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, received today Afghan Justice Minister ('Abd al-Wahab Safi), who headed the Afghan delegation to the celebrations of the glorious July revolution anniversary. During the meeting they discussed relations of cooperation and friendship between Iraq and Afghanistan and means to serve the interests of the two nations and reinforce the common struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ISRAELI RAIDS

JN212226 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim held in the past few days intensive contacts with the ambassadors of UN Security Council member-states as well as other friendly states. Foreign Minister al-Qasim briefed the ambassadors on the Jordanian stand regarding the painful events the Arab homeland is witnessing, particularly after the escalation of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and its barbaric massacres against the Lebanese people and the Palestinian resistance, especially throughout the last week, which left behind hundreds of martyrs and wounded among the innocent civilians in southern Lebanon and in Palestinian camps.

Speaking to AFP, Al-Qasim said that we consider this aggression as another link in the chain of Israeli attacks on Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance.

Foreign Minister al-Qasim said that some international circles have adopted in the past 20 years the concept of preserving Israel's security by submersing it with sophisticated weapons and unlimited political, financial and economic aid, which has enabled Israel to launch successive attacks, occupy more of the Arab land and keep the area in a state of continued instability and tension. That is why Israel continued its attempts to foil all efforts that had been exerted to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region, a peace which cannot be achieved without Isreal's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to determine their fate on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The minister said: We believe that the acceptance of these illogical concepts encouraged Israel to strike at the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Israel found no other excuse with which to justify this aggression except to accuse Iraq of building nuclear weapons. This has been denied by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the various specialized and responsible institutions in France and Italy. Thus this aggression came to confirm what we had informed our Arab nation and world countries about--that Israel will foil all attempts that any Arab country will carry out to build itself or develop itself. The aggression against fraternal Iraq could not be justified as Israel usually does when it deals blows to the Palestinian resistance or because some of the Palestinians passed through Iraqi territory to Israel or because Iraq had attacked it. This aggression came in implementation of the new Israeli concept of security, which considers any developed and stable society surrounding it as posing a threat to it because it is living in a state of constant instability.

The Jordanian minister told AFP that Jordan had always warned that Israel does not classify states as being confrontation, support or steadfastness countries. Israel's only objective is to impose its hegemony over the Arab world, which it considers as being a human wall which it must go through to achieve its objectives. It also believes that it must deal blows to all the peace opportunities that are offered to the countries in the region.

Al-Qasim said that Israel always tries to cover its aggressions by the slogan of Israel's security and self-defense. Al-Qasim warned that if such an illogical claim finds any response, we shall inevitably find ourselves returning to the law of the jungle and destroying all internatinal concepts and norms which have regulated relations between states and nations in such a manner that they preserve the minimum level of dealing that is based on principles of justice and right.

Al-Qasim added that Arab countries have persistently and continuously warned against the serious consequences that result from this strange concept concerning Israeli security. Israel's recurrent aggressions have made several western countries come to realize the serious consequences of this policy on the security, stability and peace of the peoples and countries in the region.

This has led these states to reconsider their stands and obtain a better understanding of the Arab rights. The Arab states should continue their efforts in order to make the other states, which continue to offer all sorts of backing and aid to Israel, reassess their policies and evaluate the repercussions of their acts, since the region's security and peace are connected with the world's security and peace.

In conclusion, Al-Qasim expressed his confidence that during its meeting in Tunis the day after tomorrow, the joint Arab defense council will be able to crystallize a sincere and unified Arab effort that will lead to a mobilization of all the Arab nation's potentials and capabilities in the battle of destiny being waged in defense of its existence, particularly at this time when the entire Arab nation is being exposed to an Israeli aggression, which was begun with a wild offensive against Lebanon, the Palestinian people and the Palestinian resistance.

AD-DUSTUR CITES LIBYAN OFFICIAL ON 'OIL WEAPON'

JN211150 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jul 81 p 24

[Text] Amman--'Abd as-Salam az-Za'qar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Oil in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, has stated that his country is prepared to use the oil weapon against enemies of the Arabs. However he added for this weapon to be effective in the battle against Zionism and its allies, all the oil-producing Arab countries should adopt a unified stand to apply it. He said: Saudi Arabia should lower its production of oil which has glutted the world market and should coordinate with the Arab countries over the reduction of production rates.

Az-Za'qar, who made this statement in Amman en route home from Baghdad said: The oil-consuming countries have succeeded in hoarding a strategic 4-month reserve due to the policy of glutting the market with oil practiced by some oil-producing countries which have rejected programs calling for the reduction of energy consumption, "compelling us to partially suspend export." However, he added, this will not stop us from proceeding with this policy to serve our issues and defend our destiny. We lived without oil in the past and we can do so in the future.

Az-Za'qar concluded: The decision to use the oil weapon is political. We are ready to adhere to it if agreement is reached on using it. The Palestinian issue is my country's first priority. We are ready to make any sacrifice for boosting the Palestinian people's struggle.

REPORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES 21-22 JUL

Israeli Ground Attacks

NC220602 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] It was reported that an Israeli landing operation took place in Az-Zahrani during the night. A Palestinian source has said that an Israeli sergeant was captured.

WAFA reported later that a violent Israeli attack was in progress on Al-Khardali bridge where 35 Israeli tanks, supported by warplanes, were assaulting the area. It appears that the Israeli offensive was toward Ash-Shaqif Castle.

Artillery Fire in South

NC212132 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Various areas in the eastern, central and western sectors of southern Lebanon are still coming under Israeli artillery fire following the raids which Zionist enemy aircraft carried out this evening against An-Nabatiyah and Tyre. The shelling is concentrated on areas around the civilian population. The shelling also extended to Kawkaba.

Shelling of Beirut

NC212038 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The Al-Barjawi and the Sodeco axes in Beirut are now coming under concentrated Syrian and Palestinian artillery shelling.

While the Palestinian positions in the south were being subjected to Israeli raids and artillery shelling, the Palestinians were heating up the Beirut axes with artillery and machinegun fire this evening. Shells fell on residential quarters on Lubnan street and on the army positions in the Sodeco and the contact lines. One shell fell in one of the quarters in Al-Ashrafiyah.

SYRIA'S KHADDAM EXPECTED IN LEBANON SOON

NC211338 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam is expected in Beirut before the end of this week for talks with senior officials within the framework of the Arab followup committee meeting at a time when Saudi Ambassador 'Ali ash-Sha'ir had confirmed that the followup committee will meet on the date set [25 July] and that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is exerting its utmost efforts with the United States to achieve a cease-fire in Lebanon.

SAUDI ENVOY MEETS AL-WAZZAN, MAKES STATEMENT

NC211702 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] At 1600 today prime minister Al-Wazzan met with Saudi Ambassador Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir who briefed him on the meetings he had in the past 3 days in Saudi Arabia, Damascus and with the Palestinians. He also reviewed with Al-Wazzan all the programs and the matters that will be discussed at the Arab followup committee meeting on 25 July in B'abda.

Ambassador Ash-Sha'ir said: It appears that the joint Arab efforts have yielded some fruits which we hope will be permanent and will continue, particularly since the south will enjoy a state of tranquility in the future [as heard].

On whether the direct Israeli interference in Lebanon will affect the subject of severing dealings [with Israel], he said: Severing dealings is a necessary Arab demand. We have made some important achievements so far. Israel is rejected in any form whatsoever on this Arab land.

AL-WAZZAN ISSUES STATEMENT AFTER COUNCIL MEETING

NC211435 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT Jul 81

[Text] The Higher Defense Council has held a meeting under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis. It was attended by Prime Minister, Acting Foreign Minister and Interior Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, National Defense Minister Joseph Skaf, Finance Minister Dr 'Ali al-Khalil, Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri and Council Secretary General Staff Brig Gen Nabil Quraytim. Acting Deputy Prime Minister and Posts and Telecommunications Minister Michel al-Murr did not attend because he was indisposed. After the meeting Prime Minister al-Wazzan answered journalists' questions as follows:

The aim of the Higher Defense Council meeting was to express serious concern about the incidents that have taken place and the national duties that we must perform in these circumstances pertaining to defense matters, in order to consolidate the steadfastness of the citizens and ward off any harm from them. Naturally we did not touch upon details because you know that what is decided at the Council is not announced. The law provides that the Council decisions must remain secret.

Al-Wazzan added: We have studied all the eventualities and possibilities and I believe that we have decided on what we must concentrate in our domestic work as Lebanese or our joint work with our Arab brothers. The joint Arab defense council will meet this Thursday and our delegation has specific instructions in this regard.

The prime minister was asked: Who will represent Lebanon at the meeting? He answered: An announcement will be made on this at the appointed time.

He was also asked: What do you expect from the joint Arab defense council? He answered: We expect what it will decide on.

Finally, he was asked: Katyusha missiles are daily falling on ad-Dikwanah and Sinn al-Fil. Have you found out the reasons for firing these missiles and the source? He answered: There are many interpretations and we must have good intentions.

AL-WAZZAN EXPLAINS SITUATION TO UNIFIL ENVOYS

NC220600 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today met with the ambassadors of the countries participating in the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon and discussed with them the results of the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the UNIFIL role in this respect. This meeting was attended by the ambassadors of France, the Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, Britain on behalf of Fiji, and the charges d'affaires of Sweden, Nigeria, Norway. It was also attended by the director general of the Information Ministry, Radwan Mawlawi, and the director general of protocol and public relations in the prime minister's office, 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykhah.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan began the meeting by welcoming the ambassadors and then said: I invited you to discuss matters pertaining to UNIFIL. This invitation is an expression of our feeling that Lebanon and the participating countries are in one rank to face the difficulties and the Israeli aggression and for the intensification of efforts for the restoration of peace in the south and the implementation of Resolution 425.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: We have always appreciated the role of these forces within the framework set for them by the United Nations. Another benefit for the presence of these forces today is tantamount to an international testimony to the Israeli aggression taking place against our country. While our pain is profound regarding what is happening in the south and for the victims, destruction and ruin which we are suffering, we would like to focus here on an important aspect--namely, that the countries participating in UNIFIL are aware that Israel is not happy with this humanitarian initiative which is represented in the dispatch of UN forces to Lebanon. It is undermining this humanitarian UN initiative, and it has accepted it unwillingly.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: During the Chamber of Deputies meeting yesterday I heard from various deputies statements expressing profound pain about the aggressions taking place. Their demands were that the emergency forces should be more effective. There was some criticism about this situation. However, the criticism was not directed at these forces but at the political position of the United Nations, which has so far not been able to face events as it should.

He added: In my opinion, the time has come for the United Nations to give these forces authority to become more capable of facing the dangers which arise from time to time. He said: We do not ask these forces to fight for us. But there is a defect in their task, making them unable to face events as necessary. I repeat that the participating countries are not responsible for this situation; the United Nations itself is responsible. I must also reiterate our thanks to these countries for what they are doing.

The prime minister added: We hope that after these events we can rearrange matters to enable us to bring the situation directly back to normal. Here I wonder: Was it a coincidence that the Israeli attacks took place 2 days after a detailed report was submitted to the UN secretary general on the work of the UN forces in Lebanon and after the plan which Lebanon submitted regarding action in the south?

Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: This is the first and main subject for which we have invited you so that you will acquaint yourselves with our position and our just demands regarding the need to continue work to confront the dangers resulting from the destruction of the bridges and the severance of communications which constituted a vital artery between the south and the other areas in Lebanon. This is in addition to the fact that the UN forces also have been put in a dangerous situation and have become isolated.

The second thing, Prime Minister Al-Wazzan added, is that we are partners in a common responsibility. Because of the presence of the Lebanese Army with the UNIFIL we have become partners in this responsibility. The Lebanese Army is under the UNIFIL command in its operations zones.

After reading the resolution, Prime Minister Al-Wazzan said: You will notice that in its note [mudhakkah] Lebanon has called for sanctions against Israel. It is hoping that all friendly states, particularly those participating in the UN forces, will stand firmly with it against Israel.

These states have been witness to Israel's barbarism and continuous aggression. Our insistence this time as a small country on sanctions is not out of revenge but because it seems that Israel does not heed the UN resolutions, and it needs sanctions to deter it. This is particularly so since the world has condemned it after its aggression against the Iraqi reactor without imposing sanctions because of the U.S. veto, and so Israel did not heed the condemnation and here today it attacked Lebanon.

Therefore, Prime Minister al-Wazzan concluded, we demand and insist that sanctions be applied on Israel. Once again, thank you for your countries' love. I hope that our friendship will be translated into fruitful work on every level.

The prime minister then handed to the ambassadors a note on the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The note said: The continuous Israeli raids on Lebanon have resulted in the complete destruction of several principal bridges in southern Lebanon--something which has led to the isolation of many villages and the departure of their people. Furthermore, the savage aggression against the western sector of Beirut has killed hundreds of people, including children, women and old people.

The note added: The presence of the UN forces in southern Lebanon is extremely important for the United Nations and for your countries. We are afraid that the task of the UN forces and the Lebanese Army force under UNIFIL disposal would, in fact, be frozen as a result of the destruction of the bridges, the severance of communications and the dangerous escalation of violence. This threatens to torpedo the efforts of the Security Council and its resolution adopted on 19 March 1978 to restore peace.

The note added: The Israeli aggression took place at a time when serious and urgent attempts are being made toward reconciliation and calm and when the government is getting ready to continue implementing the plan which has been drawn up on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the subsequent resolutions.

The note concluded that the continuous Israeli agression against Lebanon constitutes a threat to the peace and security of Lebanon, the area and the whole world. The note urged the friendly states in the Security Council and the UN secretary general to adopt effective measures to put an immediate end to the aggression.

At the end of the meeting, the prime minister thanked the ambassadors for the interest they showed concerning the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the killing and destruction it caused.

Copies of the Lebanese draft resolution to the UN Security Council on the Israeli aggressions were then distributed among the ambassadors. It is the same draft resolution which Lebanon's permanent UN Representative Ghassan Tuwayni distributed yesterday to the members of the Arab group at the United Nations and the members of the UN Security Council.

COMMENTARY SAYS U.S. TO BLAME FOR ISRAELI ATTACKS

JN211451 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It becomes firmly established again and again that the war of annihilation which the enemy began last Friday is in part and parcel a direct U.S. war against our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. How can anyone in full possession of his mental facilities imagine that the U.S. officials' announcement on postponing the delivery of the F-16 planes to the Zionist entity could reflect their disapproval of or objection to such a war or even their participation in it. How can such alleged disapproval be in line with the U.S. officials' oft-repeated declarations, namely, that the PLO is a terrorist organization--as they allege--and that they will act while taking this fact into consideration?

Furthermore, is it not the United States which has supplied and is supplying the Zionist entity with the tools of murder and destruction? Indeed, this is seen in U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's admission during his visit to the Zionist entity last April that the so-called Israeli security constitutes the crux of the U.S. policy in the Middle East. How can we forget the statement by Richard Allen, the Presidential adviser for national security affairs, to the effect that Israel--as he alleges--has the right to pursue the Palestinian resistance's men inside Lebanese territory, thus proceeding from its alleged right to safeguard its security? How can we forget statements made by Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, last Friday--as the Israeli forces carried out the annihilation operations and barbaric shelling--to the effect that the United States will continue to give all forms of support to the Zionist entity? After such statements by the officials of its administration, can the United States hide the truth and deny that it is directly responsible for transforming the Lebanese citizens' houses and the Palestinian refugees' camps into graves? Can the crew of barbaric terrorists ruling in Israel reiterate their threats to strike at the populated areas without being invested with legitimacy by the United States and without receiving U.S. blessings?

All these questions affirm that the war of annihilation being launched by the Zionist enemy against our Palestinian and Lebanese peoples is part of a comprehensive plan which is being implemented at U.S. orders and with direct U.S. supervision. As-Sadat's regime, other agent regimes and the Lebanese isolationist forces are also participating in this aggressive conspiratorial scheme. The purpose of this plan is to arrange the U.S. strategic position in the Arab region on such foundations as striking at Syria and its pan-Arab liberation system; liquidating the Palestinian resistance; dividing Lebanon and making it sign the Camp David accords; imposing a U.S. and Zionist hegemony over all the region's states; and establishing more U.S. military bases in these states in order to tighten U.S. control over the oil regions and threaten the Soviet Union. Thus, the war of annihilation being launched by Israel against our Lebanese and Palestinian peoples is in essence a direct U.S. war, although its visible goals are Israeli goals. While assessing this war from this perspective, Syria is clearly aware of the dimensions of its battle and acts in accordance with the dictates of its pan-Arab responsibilities, thus proceeding from its leader Hafiz al-Asad's declaration that martyrdom should be the rule rather than the exception in our lives. When we give up lives for the sake of the pan-Arab issue, it means that there is an absolute determination to achieve this issue's victory, defeat its enemies and maintain its capability to rejuvenate itself and continue to exist.

CABINET RULES ON U.S. PROPOSAL; HABIB INFORMED

21 Jul Cabinet Meeting Ends

TA211321 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The Cabinet meeting--which discussed the situation in the north--ended in Jerusalem about 30 minutes ago. It has been reported that the prime minister will this evening report the Cabinet's reaction to the U.S. proposal to strive for a cease-fire in the north to U.S. envoy Philip Habib.

Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports that political circles in Jerusalem believe that the Cabinet accepted Mr Begin's position that the United States should be urged to strive for the removal of the terrorists from Lebanon and not to agree to a cease-fire which will enable them to reorganize and again attack Israeli citizens following a few months of calm.

Replying to journalists' questions upon emerging from the meeting, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said there was no crisis in the relations between Israel and the United States but rather a legitimate argument which, in his opinion, will end up in an understanding because both countries share a great deal.

Haig Message Assessed

TA211515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The chief of staff, the intelligence chief and the Mossad head briefed the Cabinet today on events in the north and the antiterrorist fight. In contrast to reports from Ottawa according to which a firm message was sent to Israel, governmental sources in Jerusalem said that Haig's message to the prime minister is formulated in a reassuring style. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned that Alexander Haig repeated in the message that Israel is a friend and an ally of the United States. Haig wrote that when reports were released on the killing of civilians in the Israeli Air Force's attack on Beirut, the U.S. President had no choice but to freeze the supply of the aircraft.

The prime minister strongly asked that the Cabinet's reaction to the request for cease-fire in the north not be publicized before the answer is transferred to President Reagan. The Cabinet will reconvene to discuss this issue the day after tomorrow. [23 July]

Correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that several Cabinet ministers, including Minister Burg, today expressed anger that views they aired in the Ministerial Committee for Defense Affairs were leaked to the communications media. Our correspondent reports that reference is to the criticism several ministers leveled at the air force's operation in Lebanon.

Begin's Position Outlined

TA211524 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1515 GMT 21 Jul 81

[By political correspondent Gad Becker]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin may inform Philip Habib this evening that under certain conditions Israel is prepared to act toward lessening the tension in Lebanon. It should be mentioned that until today we know that the prime minister has stated that another cease-fire should not be agreed to in the north, a cease-fire which will again lead to further deterioration after some time. He told his confidante once again that until an agreement is reached in Lebanon Israel will have to continue to defend its citizens. It has been known that the prime minister is prepared to make an effort to mitigate tension in the north on condition--conditions that will prevent continued terrorist activity and will make it clear that a comprehensive settlement for the Lebanonese problem should be reached. It is certain that Mr Begin was not ready for any form of cease-fire between the State of Israel and the terrorists, nor for any direct or indirect negotiations with the PLO.

The prime minister's position--as we have known it recently--has been that the only interlocutor for handling the Lebanese crisis is the legal government of Lebanon.

The Israeli Cabinet dealt for about 5 and 1/2 hours today with what was defined as political and security afffirs. After the Cabinet meeting the prime minister said that the answer Israel formulated for Philip Habib will be handed to him at 1800 this evening. Following the Cabinet meeting Minister Moda'i and Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori, in answer to questions on Israeli-U.S. relations expressed themselves with great caution regarding the U.S. move suspending the F-16's. They said there is no crisis, there are disagreements and misunderstandings. It should be mentioned that in Ottawa yesterday Alexander Haig explained the motives for the U.S. decision [on suspension] and, among other things, repeated the expression of allies in defining Israeli-U.S. relations. This expression is used by the prime minister at every opportunity. It should be noted that political sources in Jerusalem have lately said that the United States in the past made decisions, such as to bomb Hiroshima, knowing that civilians would be hit there, but still do so in order to defend its soldiers. Therefore, according to these sources, one cannot come to Israel with complaints since Israel did not act against civilians intentionally but did what it had to do since there was no other choice.

The answer that has been formulated for Philip Habib today will be released after the meeting between Begin and Habib at the prime minister's house this evening. In the meantime, we have learned about another Cabinet meeting that will be convened this week and that probably will be dedicated to the Lebanese issue.

Begin Meets With Habib

TA211713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Israel is prepared for U.S. envoy Philip Habib to open negotiations with the Lebanese Government to reach an agreement on a cease-fire on the northern border. This is the decision made by the Cabinet in its special meeting today. The prime minister is now talking with Philip Habib on the decision in his Jerusalem house. It seems that the decision will be transmitted to President Reagan within a short time. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports from the prime minister's house on the Dabinet meeting and its significance:

[Begin recording] At the moment, the talk between the prime minister and the U.S. envoy is continuing. Menahem Begin handed the U.S. envoy the decision made in the extradrdinary Cabinet meeting to the U.S. proposal that Philip Habib be authorized to negotiate with the parties concerned with the aim of establishing a cease-fire on the northern border. The Cabinet decision is formulated in a positive manner and empowers Mr Habib to take action to create peaceful relations with Lebanon. The ministers adopted the prime minister's position whereby Israel's objective is that the Lebanese Government take care of events in the country. Israel reserves to itself the right to continue acting against the terrorists whose purpose is to sow destruction and death among the Israeli citizens. Justice Minister Moshe Nisim told me this evening that the decision made by the Cabinet is a wise decision. Israel was not prepared to agree that the U.S. dictate, as he put it, an Israeli position that had been reinforced in President Reagan's decision to suspend the delivery of the F-16's to Israel. The Cabinet has suggested a substantively different formulation for the continued Habib Mission in the region. Responsibility for events in Lebanon lies on the legal government of the country. Israel will not negotiate with the PLO under any circumstances.

What is the significance of the Cabinet decision?

Various assessments were heard this evening on this issue. Several ministers said that the Cabinet has agreed, as mentioned, with the prime minister's stance that a cease-fire which will give the terrorists time to organize and to continue to act against Israel citizens should not be accepted, but that a comprehensive solution should be sought. Another assessment made today: the Cabinet bent in face of the U.S. demand, despite the prior announcements made by various personalities, including people close to the prime minister, who claimed that the government would answer the U.S. demand with an absolute no.

In the Cabinet meeting the chief of staff, the intelligence chief and the Mossad head briefed the ministers on events in the north regarding the terrorists and the Lebanese Government as well as the Syrian and Soviet positions on the present crisis. The Cabinet will reconvene for another discussion on these issues on Thursday.

Two more problems are pending before the decision-makers in the Cabinet: first, the way of handling the PLO and, second, relations with the United States. The prevalent view regarding the PLO is that strikes at the terrorists should continue until the infrasture they have recently built is destroyed. As regards the relations with the United States, the prime minister read out to the ministers a message he received from U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, a message in which Haig explains the background to the U.S. President's decision to suspend the delivery of the planes to Israel. The message contains reassuring words and firm remarks. Alexander Haig repeats the definition of Israel as U.S. ally and friend. However, certain passages in the message indicate the anger prevailing among the U.S. administration leaders toward Israel, which confused the President by its operations in Beirut on the eve of the convening of the industrialized countries' heads in Ottawa. In a short while the prime minister and the U.S. envoy will end their meeting and we will then hear the full wording of the Cabinet decision. We may also be wiser than about the meaning of the Cabiret meeting. In any event, it is possible to estimate now that the U.S. envoy will wait for instructions from the White House before he decides on the continuation of his mission. [end recording]

Habib-Begin Meeting Ends

TA211751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1746 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] At this moment we have learned that the meeting between Philip Habib and Prime Minister Begin ended a few minutes ago. At this moment the two are answering correspondents' questions. We will go over to correspondent Shim'on Schiffer at the prime minister's house:

[Schiffer] Well, the meeting between the prime minister and envoy Philip Habib has indeed ended. The two personalities did not agree to answer journalists' questions but read written statements. The U.S. envoy will remain in the area and will continue his attempts to achieve a cease-fire between Israel and the warring elements in the region.

Begin Reads Announcement

TA211756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1748 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Statement read by Prime Minister Begin after meeting with U.S. envoy Philip Habib on 21 July--live]

[Text] The announcement on the Cabinet meeting held today:

The prime minister reported to the Cabinet on his talks with Philip Habib, the U.S. President's envoy, and on the personal messages sent to the prime minister by U.S. Secretary of State Haig.

The Cabinet decided as follows:

A. The Cabinet agrees that Mr Philip Habib will hold contacts with Lebanese President Sarkis and the Lebanese Government with the intention of reaching the establishment of peace between Israel and Lebanon, from which the terrorist organizations are continuously attacking Israel's territory and kill and wound its citizens.

B. The Israeli Government will under no condition hold negotiations, direct or indirect, with the Arab terrorist organizations whose declared objective is to annihilate the State of Israel and its people. They intentionally direct the weapons supplied to them in huge quantities by Libya, the Soviet Union and Syria against the Jewish civilian population. Also, the Government of Israel will not empower anybody to conduct negotiations with these terrorist organizations.

C. The government will continue to defend Israeli citizens. This is both its right and its duty.

Positions 'Totally at Odds'

TA220537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] U.S. envoy Philip Habis will depart for Beirut today, at the close of his talks with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Our political correspondent reported last night that Israel and the United States are totally at odds over the nature of the authority given to Philip Habib.

Sources at the prime minister's office have said that the Cabinet is prepared to have Philip Habib conduct negotiations with Lebanon on peace arrangements with that country but will not deal with negotiating a cease-fire with the terrorists. Israel is not prepared to conduct such negotiations, and the terrorists--as far as Israel is concerned--are gangs that invaded Lebanon, a country that is not theirs.

'Misunderstanding' Cited

TA220645 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Report by political correspondent Shimon Schiffer--recorded]

[Excerpts] The decision made by the government was based on an in-depth analysis of the term "cease-fire." According to the ministers, this term envelops a recognition of the party with whom one reaches a cease-fire and it is this trap that the Cabinet wanted to avoid.

What then has changed in view of the Cabinet decision? The U.S. envoy remains in the region, and there is a chance that he will be able to convince the Syrians and the Saudis to restrain the terrorist organizations and make them hold back their fire. Meanwhile, Israel will continue to destroy the infrastructure set up by the terrorists.

In Israel-U.S. relations there is a misunderstanding. According to political circles, the relations are at a low. The prime minister vehemently protested last night to Philip Habib President Reagan's decision to suspend the supply of the F-16 aircraft to Israel. Manahem Begin said this was the first time since arms supplies deals were signed between Israel and the United States that the conditions of the contract are being violated and the United States is not honoring the delivery dates. This is being done by an administration which has described Israel as a friend and ally. The prime minister expressed anger at the fact that while the terrorists were enjoying regular and constant supply of enormous quantities of lethal arms activated against civilian population which it gets from the Sovet Union and Libya, one could have expected a friendly administration to fulfill the deals it had signed. He expressed the hope that in the future, if the United States wishes to avoid an arms race in the Middle East, it will make sure that this is bilateral.

Cabinet Decision Assessed

TA220722 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Report by political correspondent Gad Becker--recorded]

[Excerpt] Philip Habib said last night that the Cabinet resolution made it possible for him to continue the mission set for him by President Reagan. However, Israel and the United States are still using different terms. The prime minister defined the objective as having peaceful relations between Israel and Lebanon. Habib talked about a cease-fire as the first step toward attempting to bring about calm.

People in Israel have explained that the term peaceful relations also includes the restoration of quiet in the border areas, but the government yesterday expressed reservation with making any use or even hinting at the term cease-fire, from which in effect a recognition of the terrorists can be implied. The Cabinet's decision, people in Israel say, makes it possible for the United States to get what it wants--holding negotiations--but purposely does not tie Israel's hands or force it to end its war against the terrorists. We wanted to avoid creating an overt crisis with the United States, ministers explained last night.

The Cabinet decision is also given to various interpretations. Some say that Israel has, in effect, rejected Secretary of State Alexander Haig's appeals to effect an immediate cease-fire between the parties and will in any case continue the same policy of initiated activity against the terrorists. Others have interpreted this as constituting an opening for stopping the fire in the north and perhaps even as an indication of a certain restraint in Israel's initiated activity, to make calm possible.

As for the ultimate goal--peaceful relations with Lebanon, as the prime minister described it last night--it seems that it is still too premature to talk about this or define it. At any rate, people in Jerusalem say, the ball is not in the Israeli court; it has now been transferred to the United States and the Arab countries--Lebanon, and even Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Philip Habib, to recall, will leave for Lebanon. Political sources have said that Israel will now wait to see what kind of practical suggestions he will bring. Among other things, people in Jerusalem have mentioned an Israeli demand for the removal from within firing range of the means of warfare threatening our settlements. So much for the situation in Lebanon.

REPORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON

21 Jul Air Attack

TA211705 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The Israeli Air Force attacked terrorist targets in southern Lebanon this afternoon. All our planes returned safely to base. The IDF spokesman reported that 122-mm cannon in the An-Nabatiyah area and 130-mm in the Ar-Rashidiya area were attacked. These cannon launched shells toward settlements in the Galilee panhandle and the western Galilee in recent days. The pilots reported accurate hits on the targets.

Air Commander's Remarks

TA220713 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 81 p 2

[Military correspondent's report]

[Text] "Today part of the Lebanese sky is barred to us more so than in the past due to the Syrian missiles introduced into the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. As a result, our capability as regards intelligence and our offensive ability against the terrorists is restricted as well. This does not mean that our hands are tied, but the risks are greater than in the past." This was said by Air Force Commander Maj Gen David 'Ivri in an interview published today in the air force organ.

Major General 'Ivri adds that as a result of the missiles our freedom of flight in Lebanese skies is surely more limited. The missiles restricted the range of safe flight for our pilots. However, in the rest of the Lebanese skies no change has occurred in our air superiority and the air force's freedom of flight has not been hampered.

Referring to the U.S. claim on the use of U.S.-made planes in air force missions, Major General 'Ivri said that our contention is that defensive activity is that which prevents offensive attacks against us. The United States can argue that defensive activity is a reaction limited by geographical borders or other constraints. Major General 'Ivri added that in principle we do not carry out attacks which are not defensive in nature. The attack on the Iraqi reactor and the operations in Lebanon are intended to prevent actions against us or are aimed at hitting those who openly declare their desire to liquidate us.

In the interview, given before the attack on Beirut, Major General 'Ivri said that air force missions are a derivative of policy. Their frequency and nature are approved by the political echelons.

On the planned sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, he said that they constitute a difficult problem. This exposes our activity as the enemy can see all air and ground movements in Israel. Nevertheless, it is clear to him that one solution or another may be found for the AWACS problem.

Tank Raid Denied

TA220513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] The terrorists claim that an Israeli tank force raided the Al-Khardali bridge, at the foot of the Beaufort Castle, in southern Lebanon. The terrorists' news agency in Beirut reported that the Israeli force included between 25 and 50 tanks, supported by auxiliary forces and that soldiers brought in via helicopters also participated in the raid. The terrorists reported that the raid began at around midnight [2200 GMT] and continued until 0300 [0100 GMT].

The IDF spokesman, speaking with our military correspondent, denied the report on an Israeli raid and said that he does not know anything about it.

In reply to a question, the IDF spokesman confirmed that Israeli Navy ships shelled terrorist targets between Tyre and Sidon.

Israeli military sources have also denied another terrorist report that the terrorists captured an Israeli prisoner during the raid 2 days ago near the Az-Zahrani River.

'Terrorists' Receive Arms

TA211953 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1920 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Report by military correspondent Dan Semama--videotaped]

[Excerpts] The terrorists have fired hundreds of shells, both Katyushas and cannon shells of 130-mm in diameter. The inhabitants in the north spent another night in shelters. The IDF has in recent days increased its firing in the north. The IDF artillery, mortars and cannon have been deployed to answer the terrorists' fire. According to reports here the terrorists in southern Lebanon have in recent days received large quantities of shells, ammunition and arms. According to these reports the terrorists continue to move both southward and northward despite the bombing of the bridges. Here, in the north of the country--we learn from Israeli military sources as well as Haddad's militiamen--the Syrians are the ones operating the terrorists, giving them firing orders and providing firing ranging against our settlements in the north for the terrorists. Major Haddad listens to the terrorists' broadcasts in his radio station. According to him, he hears the orders and instructions the Syrians give the terrorists.

Today, intermittent fire continued in the course of the whole day. There were shells landing on our territory and the IDF returned the fire. When shells landed on the Christian enclave in southern Lebanon, Haddad's soldiers returned with mortar and cannon fire.

There is a war of attrition in the north. The navy, the air force and the artillery--they all act against the terrorists. The firing continues nevertheless. Major Haddad told us that a hundred deaths among the terrorists do not have the effect of even a single death in Israel.

Local Cease-Fire

TA221132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1128 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Text] Here is a report that has reached the editorial room just now: The spokesman for the Sidon commander has reported that Israel and the Lebanese Red Cross have agreed to observe a local cease-fire for 10 hours near the Az-Zahrani to allow for the removal of about 20 bodies from under the debris of the bridge bombed by the Israeli Air Force. The spokesman said that Red Cross teams began searching for the corpses at about 0500.

It has been reported from the IDF spokesman's office that there is no information about such an agreement.

TZIPOLI VIEWS CEASE-FIRE ISSUE, U.S. RELATIONS

TA211839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] After today's Cabinet meeting Deputy Defense Minister Mr Mordekhay Tzipori answered questions from reporters regarding the situation with Lebanon and relations with the United States. He was asked whether there is a crisis with Washington in view of the continued suspension of the supply of the F-16 planes.

[Begin recording] [Tzipori] It is not a crisis. It's just--let's say--in every good family from time to time there are some arguments and we shall argue our positions and points and overcome it and everything will be as good as it used to be always.

[Correspondent] You would not call it a crisis then.

[Tzipori] No, no.

[Correspondent] Mr Tzipori, is Israel going to accept the cease-fire in Lebanon?

[Tzipori] What?

[Correspondent] Will Israel accept the cease-fire against the PLO in Lebanon?

[Tzipori] The PLO has not been a partner for us for discussions, will not every be. So, if the authorities of Lebanon will approach us for some kind of discussion, we will discuss things.

[Correspondent] What is Israel's stand about a cease-fire as approached by the United States?

[Tzipori] I told just now--we have nothing in common with the PLO and we shall not have. If the authorities of Lebanon one day will decide that they want to talk with us we will be very glad to do it.

[Correspondent] Mr Tzipori, is Israel prepared to accept a limited cease-fire that will end the shooting only?

[Tzipori] I told you we are always happy to see that the region is quiet. [end recording]

Further Remarks

TA220603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Jul 81

[Interview of Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal on 22 July--recorded telephone conversation]

[Text] [Tal] Mr Tzipori, good morning.

[Tzipori] Good morning.

[Question] What a cease-fire on the part of the IDF means, that we know, but what is the meaning of the demand for a cease-fire on the part of the terrorists? This is not clear. Can there be such a cease-fire, between the IDF and the terrorists?

[Answer] Our position on this issue is unequivocal; there is a neighboring country, which is the Republic of Lebanon. We are prepared to have any kind of negotiation with the Lebanese authorities in order to help them to overcome and affect order in their country and along our border. Insofar as the State of Israel is concerned, there never has been, nor will there be negotiations with the terrorists. As long as they exist, organize and attempt to harm the State of Israel, to the extent that the local authorities, wherever they may be, do not handle them, the IDF or the State of Israel will continue to deal with them.

[Question] And yet, the party that fires from the other side of the border are the terrorists, not the Lebanese Government?

[Answer] But the Lebanese Government is responsible for that territory, and it should have control over the matter. The terrorists are no partners for a dialogue with us, nor will they be such. We are prepared to talk with the Government of Lebanon about a cease-fire. Both in the past and at present, it is not the State of Israel that opened fire. Groups of murderers, aided by Arab countries and Eastern bloc countries, sit there, constantly either preparing for or attempting to carry out sabotage acts in Israel. As far as we are concerned, we will not sit quietly and silently until they score achievements, and only then react. We will try to prevent them in any possible way. We will be happy to cooperate with the Government of Lebanon--both to reach peace with it, in general, but also to cooperate with it so that its country does not turn into a base for murderers.

[Question] We have seen that, nevertheless, the fire continues each night from the other side of the border, and we, too, fire. What then is expected to happen in the next few days, in your opinion?

[Answer] I have already explained to you several times: What is to be expected in the future you will certainly not hear about in the present on the radio. However, the Government of Israel will have to decide on these or any other steps that will put an end to the fire on our settlements.

[Tal] Thank you, Mr Tzipori.

MAURITANIA

HEAD OF STATE EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER LEBANON

AB211130 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0650 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala yesterday morning received the ambassador of the Soviet Union and the U.S. charge d'affaires to our country. The audience took place in the presence of Lt Col Maaouya Ould Sidi Ahmed Taya, prime minister and minister of defense, and Naval Capt Dahane Ould Ahmed Mahmoud, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

During the audience the head of state expressed to the two diplomats Mauritania's great concern over the dangerous situation prevailing in south Lebanon. He asked them to urge their respective governments to assume their responsibility in the face of the situation, which is an act of destabilization by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The genocide, which is being carried out with the complicity of Israel's friends, poses a threat to world peace and a rapid and effective solution must be found in order to reinstate the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine and ensure respect for the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of south Lebanon.

The head of state informed the two diplomats that Mauritania will continue to play its militant role within the Arab nation to find the necessary peaceful solution and take up the Zionist challenge. As a matter of fact, Mauritania is aware that in its expansionist war the Zionist enemy threatens all Arab countries, without exception, and its ultimate objective is to expand its domination from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The Zionist philosophy, which is based on expansionism, aims at hitting the Arab interests wherever it can find them. The Arab nation must [words indistinct] the direct enemies, is a glaring evidence. There is henceforth the need for complete (?unity) within the Arab nation in order to ensure that its rights and choices prevail.

ACCUSED COUP PARTICIPANTS TO BE RELEASED

JN172022 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2005 GMT 17 Jul 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 17 Jul (INA)--The Mauritanian Government has decided to release all the detainees accused of participating in the coup attempt last March. A well-informed source has told the INA correspondent that part of those to be released will be placed under house arrest for a period of 6 months. It is to be recalled that the number of those arrested after the abortive coup attempt was well over 300 persons.

TUNISIA

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LEADERS REPORTED ARRESTED

GF211415 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 21 Jul 81 p 1

[Text] AL-BAYAN has learned from reliable sources that the Tunisian Government has arrested a number of leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, known as the Islamic Current Movement, in Tunisia. Its leader, Mamjoub Zaher, was at the top of the list of those arrested. The arrests were made the day before yesterday only a few hours after the lifting of the ban on the Tunisian Communist Party.

It is worth noting that Tunisia has witnessed many incidents which the Islamic Current Movement was behind since the beginning of the month of Ramadan [2 July 1981]. Among these was the opening of cafes during Ramadan, which the government had ordered closed only to be reopened 3 days later.

ETHIOPIA

OFFICIAL SAID TO WANT MORE CUBAN HEALTH AID

FL211121 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] An exhibit, a scientific lecture and a main event addressed by Ethiopian Health Minister Tefari Wonde are all part of the 3-day celebration to mark the fourth anniversary of internationalist health work by Cuban personnel in Ethiopia. In his speech, the Ethiopian official gave thanks for all the Cuban internationalist health workers have done for the Ethiopian population and said that the work whould be extended to include medical training.

The Cuban health contingent in Ethiopia began with 32 members in 1977 and it has grown to include 240 experts in a wide variety of medical specialties at present.

TANZANIA

NYERERE ADDRESSES ARMED FORCES ON ECONOMY

EA191545 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 19 Jul 81

[Text] Dar es Salaam--President Nyerere stressed today that everything that has to be done to improve our economy must be done. He said that errors were made in the past, that we were continuing to make them and that these must be rectified.

Mwalimu said this when he was addressing the armed forces who marched to Dar es Salaam to demonstrate their support for his speech in Kigoma in which he condemned foreign agencies. The president went on to say that we had to reduce unnecessary expenses, increase prices to farmers and collect farm produce at the right time. Mwalimu pointed out that the army must set a good example of sound financial management and be exemplary in discipline, particularly in this period of economic adversity.

President Nyerere said that the economy of the whole world was staggering but pointed out that this was not caused by [word indistinct]. He added that rich, developed nations were now meeting in Ottawa, Canada, to discuss their economic problems and to seek solutions to them. In fact, he said, it was amazing that the economy of a young country like Tanzania had not sunk.

He emphasized that Wananchi must understand the realities of the worldwide economic situation as well as that of Tanzania so that they could find a suitable solution. He said that our demonstration marches should not be an end in themselves but should form the basis for renewed efforts in building our economy. The president said that these demonstration marches should also serve to prove to our supporters and enemies alike that we shall continue to build our country on socialist foundations.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO INTERVIEWED 21 JUL ON CHAD, NIGERIA

AB211103 Paris AFP in French 1001 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Yaounde, 21 Jul (AFP)--Speaking during an interview with AFP in Yaounde on Tuesday, Cameroonian President Ahmadou Ahidjo expressed doubt about the OAU's capacity to establish an African neutral force in Chad.

While deploring it, we must recognize the fact that from the beginning the OAU failed to demonstrate a clear awareness of the developments of the Chadian problem, said Mr Ahidjo. This, he added, resulted in its inability to implement its own decisions whether they concern the dispatch of a neutral force or the organization of free elections in conformity with the Lagos accords and the decision of the Lome conference. The validity of these accords was hardly reaffirmed during the recent OAU summit in Nairobi.

The Cameroonian president expressed his conviction that active UN participation in the efforts of the OAU would have enabled the loyal and urgent implementation of these decisions and facilitated final pacification, the return to legality and the reconstruction of Chad.

Questioned on the tension between Cameroon and Nigeria, Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo confirmed that he has proposed a compromise to Lagos in order to defuse the crisis. This compromise, which was officially announced in Lagos on Monday by the authorities, concerns the payment of compensation to the families of the Nigerian victims of the 16 May incidents which were responsible for the rapid deterioration of the relations between the two countries.

Mr Ahidjo said he made this decision--which he had refused to make until now--because of his desire to reduce the crisis. We will try as much as possible to avoid war with Nigeria, whether open or masked, he said, adding: If by misfortune there should ever be hostilities, it would not be on Cameroon's initiative.

Talking finally about French-Cameroonian relations, the head of state called for their strengthening as well as for loyalty to the spirit and letter of the agreements previously concluded by the two countries. Cooperation between France and Cameroon has always been exemplary. We hope they will be further consolidated and developed with the present French Government, added Mr Ahidjo. We have always affirmed that we are open to all cooperation provided it is based on mutual advantages and respect for our sovereignty and independence and does not entail interference or alignment, continued the head of state.

The Cameroonian president, who will receive French Cooperation Minister Jean-Pierre Cot in Garoua (northern Cameroon) early in August, indicated that he would soon ask for increased assistance from two French organizations--the Aid and Cooperation Fund and the Central Cooperation Fund--in order to finance some major Cameroonian production and equipment projects in the fields of communications, health, education and others.

COMMENTARY URGES WEST TO INVEST IN THIRD WORLD

AB211137 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] "The leaders of the Western world have been meeting in Ottawa in Canada since yesterday within the context of their traditional economic summit." We must admit that these leaders do not always agree on what is going wrong with the world economy and particularly on what should be done to restabilize this economy. "Today there is a cry over the increase in the price of the dollar,which threatens to suffocate the world economy and help increase the economic crisis the world has been experiencing for many years." This crisis is marked by monetary fluctuations, the aggravation of unemployment, decreases in the prices of raw materials, recourse to protectionism and an increasingly arduous competition on the world market.

"What is the real problem facing the world economy? I think it is the insufficiency of productive investments. The industrialized countries hesitate to invest in the Third World countries." Our developing countries are great consumers of capital goods and services but we lack financial means. I think that is the real problem. Investment in the Third World countries would save them from their present difficulties. In this regard, we count on Francois Mitterrand. The French president should explain in Ottawa that the West should adopt a more positive attitude in its relations with the Third World. Will Mr Mitterrand succeed in obtaining this reversal of policy in Ottawa ? We doubt it."

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO DECLARES STATE OF SIEGE, MARTIAL LAW

AB220753 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] A state of siege is to be declared throughout the national territory. The national army, gendarmerie and police will be in charge of maintaining law and order and detaining all persons suspected of putting our country to fire and sword.

The president of the republic, Mr David Dacko, announced this during a meeting held this morning at the Ocam Palace. Before announcing this decision, the head of state talked about all the problems facing the CAR and expressed great concern about our country's unfortunate situation. How can a person live, feed himself and work peacefully in a country where there is disorder? The CAR has become the laughing stock of all the neighboring countries.

The head of state strongly denounced hatred, slander and jealousy [words indistinct]. All these, he said, tend to retard our country's harmonious development which has been launched after 14 years of a bloody dictatorship (?under Emperor Bokassa). President Dacko again made a rousing appeal to all the citizens of this country to unite to build a strong and dynamic republic.

The president called on all citizens to be vigilant. It is the absolute duty of all to assume their responsibilities and ban selfishness and personal interests forever in order to seek only the country's interest. The head of state recalled that international warrants of arrest will be issued against those responsible for last Sunday's criminal attack [words indistinct] so that they may be handed over to the CAR law courts. In this connection, a ministerial mission will soon go to Brazzaville and to some (?other countries) where the CAR dissidents are based. The purpose of this mission will be to discuss with these countries' authroities all the conditions of extradition. [passage indistinct]

Military Personnel to Report

AB220820 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The chief of the Defense Staff of the CAR Armed Forces, Lt Gen [name indistinct], orders all military personnel of all ranks now on leave to return to their units today, Tuesday, 21 July 1981 [words indistinct]. The chief of the Defense Staff requests all prefects, subprefects and the authorities of the national army and gendarmerie to do their best to facilitate the return of the soldiers on leave to Bangui [words indistinct]. Any soldier on leave who fails to heed this call will expose himself to severe disciplinary sanctions.

[Paris AFP in English at 1850 GMT on 21 Jul reports: "In Paris, the French Defense Ministry said tonight that French troops in Central African Republic had been confined to barracks during the state of siege, and that they would only be called out if the safety of French civilians was endangered. The French Cooperation Ministry said the French troops would not intervene to maintain internal order. Their mission was to guard Frenchmen and to ensure the external security of Central African Republic, the ministry said."]

RWANDA

VISITING KENYAN LEADER ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR EMBASSY

EA211226 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi yesterday announced in Rwanda that Kenya will open an embassy in Kigali. Announcing this soon after his arrival, President Moi called on the minister for foreign affairs, Dr Robert Ouko, to take appropriate action. In a speech signalling bilateral talks between Kenya and Rwanda at (Urugwiro) village, President Moi said the establishment of a Kenyan embassy in Kigali would show the peoples of the two countries that his state visit to Rwanda was meaningful. He said that if the two governments adopt practical approaches to common problems, the peoples of the two nations would feel that the efforts of the two governments are for their benefit.

Flanked by his Rwandan counterpart, President Moi reiterated that Africans wherever they are were brothers and urged leaders to unite them by action and to ensure that they had peace for progress. His excellency said that relations between Kenya and Rwanda were cordial, adding that President Habyarimana's recent state visit to Kenya had brought the peoples of the two countries closer.

Welcoming President Moi to Rwanda, President Habyarimana said the visit would strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He expressed his wish that discussions between the two sides would bring about concrete results and open new avenues of cooperation in various fields of human endeavor.

ZAIRE

CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE

AB211734 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Kinshasa, July 21 (AFP)--President Mobutu Sese Seko has made a number of changes in the command structure of Zaire's armed forces, according to an announcement here.

General Mobutu created the position of deputy chief of general staff and gave it to General Boteti Nkokea Nkanga, who had been army chief of staff. General Singa Boyenge Mosambay remains chief of general staff.

General Eluki Monga Aundu takes over as army chief of staff.

General Molamba Pene Lowa, military commander of Kinshasa, becomes chief of staff of the national gendarmerie (paramilitary police).

Col Bosange Mpaze Bakola moves from commander of the special presidential brigade to become commander of the president's military household. New commander of the presidential brigade is Lt Col Nzimbi Ngbale.

New commander of the First Military Region--which includes Shaba Province, scene of invasions from Angola by Katangese dissidents in 1977 and 1978--is General Esale Yoka.

To head the Second Region, which covers Kinshasa and the Lower Zaire region, General Mobutu called on a general who had been in retirement since 1977, Itambo Mukina Wa Kambala.

The Third Military Region, which was commanded by General Aundu, will be taken over by General Danga Ngbokoli. The region covers Kivu and Upper Zaire.

DECREE ANNOUNCES PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

AB212125 Kinshash AZAP in French 1608 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 20 Jul (AZAP)--According to the terms of a decree signed on 18 July by Comrade Pay Pay Wa Kasige, the state commissioner for economy and industry, the selling prices of petroleum products are as follows:

A liter of premium as well as ordinary grade oil is fixed at 5.50 zaires, while kerosene and gas oil cost 2.50 and 2.80 zaires respectively per liter.

A metric ton of "fuel-oil" costs 2,50° zaires while the same quantity of bottled gas costs 10,50° zaires.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI REJECTS RESIGNATIONS OF TWO MINISTERS

AD212149 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Excerpt] President Shehu Shagari has rejected the notices of resignation by two ministers sponsored to the Federal Cabinet by the Nigerian People's Party, NPP. They are Professor Ishaya Audu, minister of external affairs, and Mr Ademola Thomas, minister of state for finance. The chief press secretary to the president, Mr (Charles Igo), said in a statement today that President Shagari took the decision not to accept the resignation letters considering the circumstances explained in the letters.

The two ministers so far are said to have also resigned from the NPP because of their disagreement with the decision to terminate the working agreement between the NPP and the National Party of Nigeria. The two ministers, according to the statement, have agreed to the president's request to remain in the government.

PAPER CRITICIZES FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MURDERS

AB211400 Lagos International Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NATIONAL CONCORD comments on the recent statement by the OAU secretary general, Mr Edem Kodjo, that the killing of five Nigerian soldiers by Cameroonian troops was never reported to the OAU Secretariat. The paper says that since the statement has not been denied, the assumption that the case had been presented to the OAU is therefore wrong. The CONCORD describes the inability of the Ministry of External Affairs to register a protest on the issue as the height of a series of alleged blunders by the ministry since the beginning of the second republic. It concludes by calling on the president to take a closer look at the ministry before the nation runs into another serious embarrassment on the international scene.

AIR FORCE TAKES DELIVERY OF FRG JET AIRCRAFT

AB211533 Lagos Domestic Serivce in English 1500 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] The Nigerian Air Force has taken delivery of some jet planes from West Germany. The statement attributed to Wing Comdr (Sola Agbeniye) of the defense headquarters said the planes would enhance close support missions and the training of pilots.

The acquisition of the aircraft is in line with the nation's drive to combat raiding armed forces. The chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshall A.B. Bello, received the jets on behalf of the Federal Government at a ceremony in West Germany last week.

UPPER VOLTA

COMMISSION REPORTS ON STATE-RUN COMPANIES

AB201734 Paris AFP in English 1643 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Quagadougou, July 20 (AFP)--A commission of inquiry set up by Upper Volta's military government after it seized power last year has reported that political interference was the most harmful influence on state-run companies. Such interference either paralyzes decision-making bodies (or) encourages dictatorial management...and assures the supervisors and personnel of impunity, said Jean Toe, reporter of the commission on problems in public-sector enterprises. The commission submitted its report to Col Saye Zerbo, the head of state, on Friday.

The commission was established in February, under the chairmanship of Lt Col Guesseyaoba Quedraogo. In its report, the commission said that the state had created too many public companies, spreading itself too thin financially.

COMOROS

OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS JOIN FORCES, URGE LIBERATION

AB181321 Paris AFP in English 1214 GMT 18 Jul 81

[Excerpts] Paris, 18 Jul (AFP)--Two exiled Comoran opposition movements, the National United Front and the Union of Comorans started by former President Ali Soilih have joined forces, a statement from the new organisation said today. The head of the joint movement is Abubakar Ahmed Nurdin, the statement said.

The statement called for support from French President Francois Mitterrand and urged Comoran students and workers to fight for the liberation of the Indian Ocean archipelago, including the island of Mayotte, which opted to remain French when the other three islands went indepedent in 1975.

SOUTH AFRICA

EXPLOSIONS DAMAGE TWO POWERPLANTS IN TRANSVAAL

LD211234 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Jul 81

[Text] Two power stations in the eastern Transvaal Province of South Africa were damaged by limpet mine explosions early this morning. The explosions took place at the (Camden) Power Station near Ermelo and the other at the Arnot Power Station, 52 km east of Middelburg. The police found one unexploded limpet mine at (Camden) and two at Arnot. Power has been restored at both power stations and no one was injured.

A later report says an electrical transformer near Pretoria had also been damaged in an explosion. The type of explosive used in this explosion has not been established. The police directorate of public relations in Pretoria says the limpet mines used in the attacks were of Russian origin and were apparently of the same type used in the attacks on Sasol [South African coal, oil and gas corporation] installations last year.

STRIKE, DISPUTES REPORTED AT GOLD MINE AREAS

LD201232 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Jul 81

[Text] About 2,000 mineworkers at the E.R.P.M. gold mine at Boksbur, near Johannesburg, in South Africa, have gone on strike in protest at new wages which came into effect this month. The chairman of the mine, Mr Watt, says a meeting between management and works committees was held yesterday, after which it was assumed that workers would ignore the notices to strike. The management is trying to get the workers inside the hostel area so that negotiations can begin.

(?And) at the (Alsbergen) gold mine in southern Transvaal, six mine workers were killed and hundreds injured in faction fighting. The situation was brought under control by the mine's own security officials.